

- (ii) based on the DNS request, establishing the encrypted channel between the client and the target.
- 73. The method of claim 72, wherein step (ii) comprises steps of:
- a) determining whether the client is authorized to access the target;
- b) when the client is authorized to access the target, initiating the encrypted channel; and
- c) when the client is not authorized to access the target, sending an error message to the client.
- 74. The method of claim 73, wherein step b) comprises sending encrypted channel parameters to the client.
- 75. The method of claim 72, wherein step (ii) occurs in a communication protocol independently of an application program.
- 76. The method of claim 72, wherein step (i) comprises a DNS proxy server intercepting the DNS request sent by the client.
- 77. The method of claim 72, wherein step (ii) comprises establishing the encrypted channel responsive to intercepting a DNS request for a domain name comprising a predetermined domain name extension.
- 78. A method for establishing an encrypted channel between a client and a secure host, comprising the step of automatically creating the encrypted channel upon intercepting a DNS request for a domain name comprising a predetermined domain name extension.
- 79. The method of claim 78, wherein the creating step is performed in a communication protocol independently of an application program.